

## Christmas Edition

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Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

December 13, 1991

## Christmas stories come from all regions

## Universe Services

Singing Christmas carols, putting festive lights on the house, shopping for evergreen trees, kissing under the mistletoe and opening brightly wrapped presents are among the many Christmas traditions with which most BYU students are familiar.

It seems that no matter where you come from — even if it's from some areas outside of the United States — you can find some version of these basic Christmas activities and traditions.

However, with all the continuity that Christmas and holiday traditions bring to the world, there are countless traditions that are unique to certain regions, towns or even families.

Usually, these regional and family traditions are winter-time activities that people seem to remember the most.

Ranging from New Mexico's sunshine and luminarias, Washington D.C.'s national Christmas tree, sleigh rides on snow-covered country roads and family service projects on Christmas Eve, some of the topics written about in today's Christmas Edition are warm Christmas memories of some of The Daily Universe's staff members.

Other stories simply reflect Christmas' contemporary character.

Beginning with President Rex Lee's Christmas message and his family's holiday traditions on page one, these varied Christmas stories can be found throughout today's Christmas Edition of The Daily Universe.

Merry Christmas to all. And to all, good luck on your final exams and survive the drive home for the holidays.



## Lee family celebrates holiday traditionally and BYU-style

By CHERI PADFIELD

Universe Staff Writer

Sister Janet Lee said Christmas is the vehicle that sparks the spirit of giving and allows people to express their feelings of love to others. She said Christmas in the Lee home is centered around family and promoting the spirit of giving to each other.

Sister Lee said being at BYU has enriched Christmas for the Lees and enlarged their family circle. "We enjoy attending the cultural events on campus such as 'Christmas Around the World' and choir performances; they all enrich our Christmas."

President Rex E. Lee said he enjoys hosting the annual president's Christmas party with his wife. The Christmas party will be Saturday and is for the faculty and staff of BYU and their families.

President Lee said his family looks forward to the party and enjoys the crafts and entertainment. "We have a good time at the party. We don't enjoy it just because we are hosting it," President Lee said.

Sister Lee said one Lee family tradition is a formal Christmas Eve dinner followed by a program which includes a nativity play, complete with costumes. "The children's parts change over the years but one thing never does, Rex is always the donkey," Sister Lee said.

Sister Lee said a family tradition for the women in the Lee family is shopping. She said she makes frequent shopping trips during the holiday season with her five daughters and one daughter-in-law because they enjoy spending time together and giving advice on gift selections. We really have a good time, and there are certainly many more shopping days than gifts purchased.

Sister Lee said her family enjoys shopping despite the criticism that Christmas has become too commercialized. She said she feels the process of selecting a gift that someone would enjoy and giving those gifts is the way people in this culture expresses love for each other.

President Lee said Christmas is an important holiday to his family, and all the children make an effort to be home for Christmas. He said seven family members who had trouble arranging schedules will be home for Christmas. "They don't just try to be home for Christmas, they do it," President Lee said.

Sister Lee said at Christmas her family looks forward to contact with family members serving missions.



Photo courtesy BYU Public Communications  
Pres. and Sis. Lee say their favorite traditions include hosting the president's Christmas party and having a family nativity play.

She said her son, Michael, is on a mission and the family is looking forward to receiving his phone call.

"I'm looking forward to that call, it will be the very best part of my Christmas," Sister Lee said.

President Lee said he remembers being a student at BYU and hearing the pleas of President Ernest L. Wilkinson for students to drive carefully as they traveled home.

"Now I understand how he felt. I have developed a kind of paternalistic attitude in that respect and worry

about the students as they travel home," President Lee said.

Sister Lee said her memories of Christmas as a student at BYU are of just getting through with finals. "My dominant memory is just trying to get done with finals so I could go home," she said.

Sister Lee said it is important to remember how fortunate we are to have Christ as our Savior. "Christmas triggers those feelings of thankfulness and love and is a time when everyone opens up their hearts."

## Russian lawmakers OK Yeltsin's plan

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Boris Yeltsin won landslide approval Thursday in the Russian legislature for his new commonwealth, while Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev edged closer to resigning, saying "The main work of my life is done."

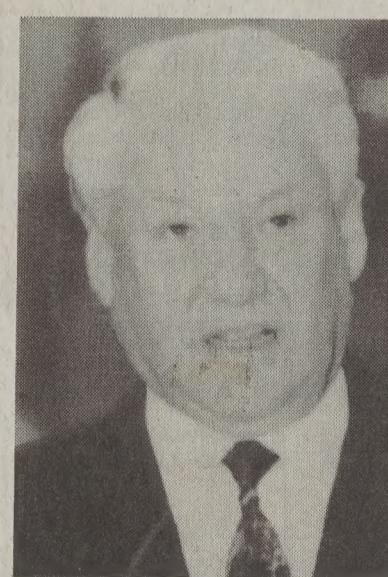
Acceptance continued to build for Yeltsin's plan to restructure the shattered Soviet Union into a commonwealth, which the Russian president forged last weekend with the leaders of the other Slavic republics of Ukraine and Byelorussia.

With much of the bitter winter still ahead, there are shortages of food, heating fuel and basic consumer goods.

The fuel shortage forced more than half of all Soviet airports to close Thursday and led to the cancellation of most domestic flights of the state Aeroflot airline, Tass reported.

U.S. officials on Thursday announced a new aid effort. The White House said President Bush would hold an international conference early next month to coordinate humanitarian assistance for the Soviet Union.

Moldavian President Mircha Snegur said after meeting with the Russian president that his republic had a



BORIS YELTSIN

"positive attitude" toward the new formation. The leaders of Kazakhstan and the predominantly Muslim republics of Kirgizia, Tadzhikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan met in Ashkhabad, the Turkmen capital, to discuss the commonwealth, and to announce their decision on joining it.

In an address to the Russian legis-



MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

lature before it gave its approval, Yeltsin sought to portray his Commonwealth of Independent States as not just a Slavic organization but open to all Soviet republics.

Yeltsin said the commonwealth represented perhaps "the last chance" for preserving order and cooperation.

## 63 percent chance for White Christmas

By JOSEPH OGDEN  
Universe Staff Writer

If you've been dreaming of a white Christmas and plan to spend the holiday along the Wasatch Front, you have a 63 percent chance of having your dream come true, according to National Weather Service Statistics.

Alex Smith, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Salt Lake City, said that according to historical climatology at the Salt Lake Airport, two out of three Christmases will have snow. About 40 percent of the time, more than an inch will be on the ground, he said.

David James, BYU weather station operator, said statistics gathered over the last 10 years show "we usually have snow on the ground and typically snow will fall about half the time on Christmas."

The average high temperature measured at the airport on the big day is 38, with the average low at 22.

Last Christmas, the 18-degree high was the coldest ever, said Bill Alder, meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service in Salt Lake City. Records were set for highs five days in a row from Dec. 21-25, 1990, with the high on Dec. 22 climbing to a chilly 2.

## Ex-hostages celebrate Christmas with Bush

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush joyously saluted five former U.S. hostages on Thursday and proclaimed at a festive Christmas tree-lighting ceremony that, "America's prayers were answered when these men came home to us."

The hostages were loudly cheered as Bush introduced them on stage, one by one, before a crowd of thousands of people on the Ellipse. They were the star attractions, with Bush, for the annual ceremony for the lighting of the national Christmas tree.

"On behalf of our loving country, I say, finally, to Terry Anderson, to Tom Sutherland, Joseph Cicippio, Alann Steen and Jesse Turner, and the others not here, welcome home," Bush said. All five hostages were released in the last two months.

At Bush's invitation, Anderson, the longest held and last freed hostage, threw a switch to illuminate the huge Christmas tree.

It remained dark.

Anderson kept trying, slapping the button box a time or two before

throwing up his hands in frustration.

Bush took over, with no better success. He shook the box and put it down again. No joy. A few seconds later the lights blazed.

"It is almost miraculous that we can celebrate with these five the lighting of our nation's Christmas tree," Bush said. "The idea is so moving because these men have come out of darkness, into the bright light of liberty."

"And as you hear these remarkable men talk, you realize they were never lost in that darkness of sorrow, anguish and despair. Even at the worst moments, they were guided by a stubborn spark that cruelty could not extinguish, the spark of the human spirit."

Collectively, the five hostages were held in Lebanon for roughly 28 years. Anderson spent 2,455 days in captivity, much of the time in chains.

"The hostages represent a strong spirit in America, a spirit of survival and strength," White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said.

He said their release also demonstrated "that hostage-taking does not help."

# NEWS DIGEST

Compiled from staff and news service reports

## Libertarian enters U.S. Senate race

Construction worker and political unknown Maury Modine has entered the race for Utah's open U.S. Senate seat against such heavyweight candidates as Wayne Owens and Joe Cannon.

Modine, a Libertarian candidate, says he believes in less government and eliminating debts. He said he also supports cutting federal involvement in personal and business affairs. Modine is in favor of privatization of local services.

"We don't want to be burdened with bureaucracy; we don't want to be burdened with taxation; we don't want to be burdened with debts," Modine said.

Debby Morgan, media contact for the Libertarian Party, said the government is like "a monster out of control."

In his announcement Modine attacked Congress and its members for increasing bureaucracy and "compromising and abandoning what few principles they may have taken with them to Washington."

Modine said Congress is "a mess" because of lack of leadership, problems with economics and not listening to its constituents. He said "Congress is leading us to national bankruptcy."

Morgan said, "There are no candidates out there you can trust anymore."

Modine said the United States has a few options in government. He said one option is to maintain the status quo and accept things the way they are.

## First Presidency gives Christmas message

The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has issued the following Christmas message to the world:

"We rejoice with all of Christianity during this blessed time of year when our thoughts turn toward Him whose birth we celebrate, even Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We love Him, we praise Him and we invite all to come unto Him."

"He alone lived a perfect life and made atonement for the sins of others doing the will of His Father. Little wonder that at His birth angels sang, a new star arose, wise men took notice and prophets rejoiced. His Gospel is a message of love."

"It was He who with great love and tenderness invoked a blessing of comfort: 'peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid.' (John 14:27)

"We humbly extend a blessing of peace and comfort upon all who seek the Lord during the holy season. May the coming year be filled with joy and find us obedient to the commandments of God as exemplified in the life of His Son."

## Smith, family pray for accuser

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Sen. Edward Kennedy was the real target of the prosecutor in William Kennedy Smith's rape trial, Smith's lawyer said Thursday. He said she blundered by putting the senator on the stand.

Roy Black also said Smith joined his family in prayers for his accuser after he was acquitted Wednesday.

"When we went back to the house, we said a number of prayers," Black said, "and one of them was for (her). We felt she had a tough time. We felt she was disturbed. Will has no bitterness toward her. Part of the prayer was that she be able to get her life together and start a new life with her child."

A Kennedy family friend, Jesuit seminarian Charles O'Byrne, led the session, which also included "a prayer for Will to put his life back together," Black said.

"I tend to think it wouldn't have gone as far as it did if he wasn't a Kennedy," Black said. "They put Will on trial, but they really wanted to prosecute Ted."

"People may criticize Ted Kennedy. When he comes into a courtroom and sits 10 feet from the jurors, they can't help but be impressed," Black said.

## Bush to host Soviet-aid conference

WASHINGTON — President Bush will convene an international conference early next month to coordinate the flow of food, medicine, fuel and shelter to the people of the collapsing Soviet Union as winter closes in, the White House said Thursday.

The industrial Western countries, oil-rich Arab kingdoms and the newly emerging democracies in Eastern and Central Europe all will be invited along with worldwide financial institutions, Secretary of State James A. Baker III said in elaborating on the move in a speech at Princeton University.

Bush signed legislation on Thursday to provide \$400 million in Pentagon funds to help the Soviets dismantle their nuclear and other weapons, and \$100 million for transportation of humanitarian assistance to the Soviets.

As the Soviet Union splinters, Baker pledged the United States would work with republics that are committed to democratic principles but would not help those on an opposite course.

## Scientists synthesize virus in laboratory

WASHINGTON — Researchers say they have created a virus in a test tube, an advance that could help in the search for new treatments for the common cold and for other little-understood viruses.

A team at the school of medicine at the State University of New York at Stony Brook reports Friday in the journal Science that a polio virus formed itself in a test tube after they mixed components of a polio viral particle with some of the proteins and enzymes from a human cancer cell.

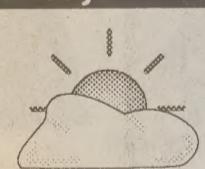
Neither the virus nor the cell was intact at the beginning of the experiment, but at the end, while fully active viruses appeared, the researchers said.

"This is the first time that a virus has been grown in a cell-free environment," said team leader Eckard Wimmer. The process is much simpler than other techniques used to study viruses, he said, and is expected to give insights into previously hidden areas of the viral life cycle.

Prior to the SUNY experiment, it was thought that viruses could reproduce themselves only in whole, intact cells.

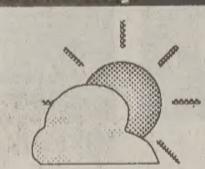
## THREE-DAY WASATCH FORECAST

### Friday



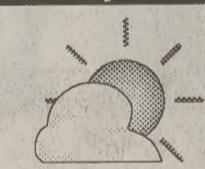
PARTLY CLOUDY  
Highs in mid 30's.  
Lows in low 20's.

### Saturday



FAIR TO PARTLY CLOUDY  
Highs in low 40's.  
Lows in mid 20's.

### Sunday



FAIR TO PARTLY CLOUDY  
Highs in low 40's.  
Lows in low 20's.

Source: KSL Weather Information Line

## THE DAILY UNIVERSE

Offices  
538 ELWC  
Brigham Young University  
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**Thought of the Day:**

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord

—Proverbs

## Travel agent's guilty plea can't be changed, judge says

By TAD R. WALCH  
Universe Staff Writer

A Provo judge denied a motion Wednesday that would have set aside a plea bargain agreement in the case of a former owner of a Provo travel agency.

Judge George Ballif ruled that Donald Ralph Thorup, originally charged with over 80 counts of criminal misconduct, failed to show good cause to have his guilty plea changed.

Thorup, 54, the former owner of the now-defunct Kim's Tours, changed attorneys shortly after entering the plea Oct. 18. He now maintains he is innocent and the motion was an attempt by his new attorney to force a trial.

The charges against Thorup were filed in September. One count was dropped by the prosecution and a second thrown out by a judge during a week-long preliminary hearing.

Rather than face the remaining 82 counts, including computer and communications fraud, racketeering, and sexual exploitation of a minor, Thorup's attorney, Vernon Romney, advised him to accept a plea bargain offered by the state.

The bargain called for Thorup to plead guilty to one first-degree felony of communications fraud. He would also plead guilty to four counts of computer fraud, one count of theft and one count of racketeering, all second-degree felonies.

Thorup faces from six to 90 years imprisonment on the second-degree charges, and a possible sentence of five years to life for the first-degree felony. He could also be fined \$70,000 and may have to reimburse all victims. Court documents show Thorup owes dozens of victims more than \$100,000.

Harry Caston became Thorup's attorney of record Nov. 8 and filed the motion to set aside the guilty plea the same day.

In an affidavit, Thorup said he "wished since the very second I entered my plea of guilty, to withdraw my plea. I have always and continue to stand by my innocence."

Thorup said he agreed to the plea due to Romney's insistence, whom he accused of coercion by using his father to get him to make the plea.

"I believe (Romney) knew of my emotional attachment to my father and played on my feelings for him," said Thorup, whose father's health is failing.

Thorup said he also did not feel he could go against his family's wishes because he is dependent on them for his legal fees.

His father, Jim Thorup, said he began to doubt Romney's actions and had "the impression that Mr. Romney just wanted to hurry and get the matter over with so that he could extricate himself from it."

Romney testified Dec. 6 at a hearing on Thorup's motion. He denied

that he had coerced Thorup into pleading guilty.

Thorup was released from custody at Utah County Jail after his father posted a \$25,000 property bail Oct. 22.

using coercion to get Thorup to enter the plea. "I absolutely did not (coerce anyone) and I am offended by that word," he said. "I strongly suggested but did not coerce him."

In making his ruling, Ballif said the evidence presented at the motion hearing showed "nothing more than an attorney counseling the defendant and his family with regard to what he considers to be the best approach."

Ballif ordered Thorup to appear before him for sentencing Jan. 10. Thorup was released from custody at Utah County Jail after his father posted a \$25,000 property bail Oct. 22.

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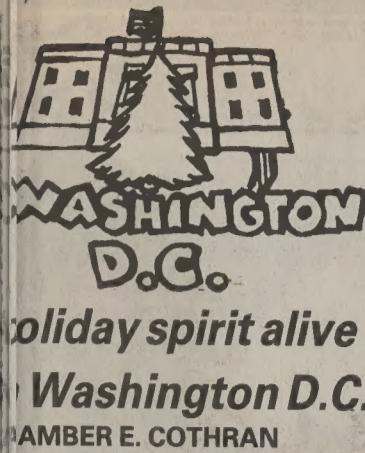
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I grew up in Maryland, about 45 miles east of Washington D.C., and never went to a single farm on my school field trips. For some reason, this makes my colleagues here at the The Daily Universe think I don't know what a hog is and that Christmas in Washington D.C. must be drastically different from Christmas somewhere else.

Maybe my Christmas memories are a little different than theirs. D.C. absolutely closes down at the first hint of snow. I remember muddy slush getting us out of school for almost the entire month of December in 1979 — it was the best Christmas vacation my life.

I remember sneaking out of the Ford Theater's annual performance of "A Christmas Carol" with some friends to watch President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev sign a nuclear arms reduction treaty in 1987. My English teacher was shocked that we would rather watch politicians sign a paper than make a *real* Christmas memory in the historic theater where President Lincoln was shot. I like to think the continued success of such activities is one of the best Christmas presents I could ask for.

But, I never walked out on one of Kennedy Center's performances of "The Nutcracker" or dreamed of seeing a year of the U.S. Naval Academy's performance of Handel's "Messiah." I'll never forget the year my sister and I got to sing "Silent Night" on the grounds of the Washington Monument as President Reagan flipped the switch on the national Christmas tree.

The Washington D.C. Temple has its, too. Never having been to Temple Square until I came to BYU, it was the most beautiful Christmas day I had ever seen. Maybe it still remembers singing "Christmas in Tahiti" at the D.C. Visitor's Center in 1984 and realizing that the temple, not the White House, is the most important building in the world. Despite the city sidewalks, busy walks, I think the spirit of Christmas is the same in D.C. as it is anywhere else. I may never see a manger in a C.C., but families are what count, D.C. children have knitted stockings, moms make fudge and dads stay up all night on Christmas Eve assembling Barbie Townhouses. Santa goes, too. I think I'll catch a ride next year.

University staff named  
Winter Semester  
JENNY MOULTON  
University Staff Writer

The Daily Universe has announced its staff for Winter Semester 1992. Jennifer Ricks, 25, a senior journalism major from Orem, will continue as editor-in-chief for the newspaper, a position he has had since the beginning of this semester.

The remainder of the editorial staff follows: news editor, David Worth, 25, a senior in journalism at Eagle, Idaho; city editor, Chad Bell, 23, a senior majoring in journalism from Springville; assistant city editor, Sandra Demchuk, 21, a senior journalism major from San Jose, Calif.; sports editor, Jennifer Dermody, 22, a journalism senior from Blackfoot, Idaho; assistant campus editor, Jennifer Weber, 23, a senior in journalism from Orem; sports editor, Romona Skipper, 24, a junior in journalism from Leland, N.C.; assistant arts editor, Michelle Erickson, 23, a senior journalism major from Centerville; lifestyle editor, Spencer Bell, 24, a senior in journalism from Lester Hills, Mich.; opinion editor, Geoffrey M. Thatcher, 24, a junior majoring in journalism from Washington; Amber Cothran, 21, a senior in public relations from Anna, Md., will be Monday editor and reporter will be Tad Walsh, 24, a senior in journalism from Vancouver, Wash.

The copy chief for Winter Semester is Clark, 22, a senior in journalism from Corrales, N.M. The assistant copy chiefs are Bill Dermody, 24, a senior majoring in public relations at Acton, Mass., and Kristina Ferrell, 24, a senior public relations major from Canoga Park, Calif. Usage specialist will be Mary Ellen Robertson, a senior in journalism from San Jose, Calif.

Scott Niendorf, 29, a senior in journalism from Boise, Idaho, will be photo editor. Assistant photo editors are James J. Walker, 55, a senior in university studies from Orem, and Seiter, 23, a senior civil engineering major from Tempe, Ariz.

The wire editor will be Eric Rutar, a senior in journalism from Albuquerque, N.M. The night editor will be Matt Scherer, 25, a junior in graphic design from Danville, Calif. Elizabeth Engstrom, 21, a journalism major from St. George, will be communications 312 teaching assistant. Workshop coordinator will be Carlson, 19, a sophomore in journalism from Huntington Beach, Calif.

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## Family traditions can spark true meaning of Christmas

By DAVE FARNWORTH  
University Staff Writer

I guess you could say Christmas has always been my holiday. There are so many aspects of this time of the year that I enjoy. Family traditions are among some of the things that add to the holiday season.

Every year it seems as though the holiday season gets longer. This year, as soon as the last goblin yelled "Trick or treat," we began to see the trimmings of Christmas. I don't mind.

It is almost as if the hand of Christmas unselfishly reaches out to everyone and shares the gift of giving and sharing. That is what's known as the Christmas spirit. Everyone gets a little friendly, thank-you's are heard a little more often, doors are held open a little longer. If we have to put up with the holiday trimmings a little longer each year in order to feel the Christmas spirit, then that is a small sacrifice to pay.

As far as traditions, the small farming community in Idaho gave us the opportunity to have a great time. Since

there was a lot of snow, the only sensible thing to do was to hook up the inner tubes to the old pick-up or the 3-wheeler and go mad. Some of the best memories I have are of taking off across a flat, snow-covered cornfield at speeds that should be illegal on a tube. On a good day, only a few kids would be taken to the hospital.

Sometimes we would get real wild and strap on a pair of skis and pull each other on the 3-wheeler. (That was all fun and games until someone nearly got their eye poked out when my friend accidentally tipped over the 3-wheeler.)

Family traditions also run deep in my memory. When I was young, Christmas meant a new BB gun or a new remote control car. I used to have a personal tradition of sleeping in the hallway on Christmas Eve in hopes of deciphering the hustle and bustle of Dad as he set up the toys in the room below.

At the time, I dreaded piling into the car on Christmas Eve and taking around the plates of homemade candy to Mom and Dad's closest friends. (It seemed like, while we were delivering them anyway, we never had candy like this for us.) However, as our family is growing farther and farther apart both by distance and by busy lives taking precedence, I wish I could be young again and have the opportunity to crowd into that Oldsmobile and make our trusty deliveries while singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" off-key.

Undoubtedly, Dad would find an airplane on a holding pattern above

the Boise Airport and try to convince us it was Santa. As we grew older, we thought we were cool because we knew "the truth," but we would still have fun trying to convince Julie (my youngest sister) that it was the trusty reindeer.

Later, Dad would dust off the Bible and read the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. The night would usually end with Dad telling us that the birth of Christ is the true meaning of Christmas.

Then we would all sprint up to our rooms knowing that the faster we fell asleep, the faster tomorrow would come. One Christmas, I can remember doing somersaults out of my bed because I was so excited. After an hour of ripping, shredding and just plain beating the heck out of the bunc-

bles under the tree, Mom and Dad would head back to bed and we would PLAY, or break all of our toys as the case usually was.

However, I eventually came to that point, the point when Christmas traditions take on a whole new meaning. They become more than just ac-

tivities; they become opportunities to enjoy your family and friends. It's a time to tell your little sister, the same one you harassed, teased and rebuked all year long, that you love her by giving her a Barbie dress or a new doll. It becomes a time to show your brother that you love him by giving him a record or tape. And then when he says "Thank you," you say, "Mom picked it out." After all, you couldn't let him know you were totally thrilled he liked it.

After you realize this about Christmas, it never is quite the same. It's a lot better. How fitting that Christmas is the time of the year that we celebrate the Savior's birth and learn how it feels to GIVE to those we love.

Now that I am older and have a family of my own, I am confronted with a lot of questions. Will I adequately teach my children how to give? What holiday traditions will our family start? Will my son sleep in the hall on Christmas Eve?

At the same time, I worry that in these days of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Michael Jackson dolls, my kids won't have the opportunity to take part in some of the same Christmas memories that I hold so dear. It's a good thing the true meaning of Christmas hasn't become commercialized. It may be getting covered up by all the hype, but with a little elbow grease and effort, it can be dusted off and brought to life.

I'm sure there will be a time in my life when I turn to one of my kids and say, "Do you see that red light in the sky?"

Undoubtedly, Dad would find an airplane on a holding pattern above



EAGLE

Illustration of a reindeer pulling a sleigh with two children, labeled 'EAGLE'.



Merry Christmas  
from THE DAILY UNIVERSE

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## Deck the walls ...

The cougar's head above the Grill in the (perhaps) aptly named Cougar Eat is decked out in its holiday finery as BYU gets festive. Other ways folks at the university are celebrating include apple give-aways and Sub-for-Santa.

## Honor Code Council to work during break

By LANCE D. MADIGAN  
University Staff Writer

While several other areas around campus will be closing down during the semester break, many members of the Student Honor Code Council will be hard at work. They hope to have certain projects ready by the start of Winter Semester.

Terry Chambers, chair of the council, said several members staying in the area will be working on educational programs, including a poster campaign, a video presentation for incoming students, planning for work with the ID Center and preparation for several firesides in January.

Chambers said, "We talked about the poster campaign and came up with some ideas, which we will be pursuing over Christmas. We have to get approval for some of the ideas we have. We will be taking some of the ideas we have directly to President Snow."

Chambers said, "We are going to be making some presentations at the orientation for the new semester. We will present some educational-type things as well as the (Honor Code) video."

"We are also working with Nancy Carson at the ID center to find ways to make that experience good for students," Chambers said. "That is one of the main places where people are checked to see if they are within standards. The way it has been so far is that if they are not within standards

when they come to have their picture taken or to pick up the activity sticker, they are just turned away."

"We are looking at ways that we can ward off some possible problems and also deal with problems right there on the spot. We want to try to minimize the impact on the students and try to help educate them about the dress and grooming standards."

"One thing we might do, we may very well have Honor Code Council members down at the ID Center during the time that there is ID distribution. So in case there is a problem, we can be right there and help resolve it."

Chambers also said in January, the council will have 12 firesides in 12 weeks to show the new video presentation and to create discussion. "We are going to be pretty busy with educational sorts of things, and that is exactly what we want to be doing."

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## Students warned of consumer fraud

By MICHELE EDGLEY  
University Staff Writer

Students as consumers are facing more fraud, rip-offs and deceptions this year than ever before, and newlyweds and international students may especially be at risk, said an Ombudsman office representative.

Justine Sirken, a 20-year-old junior majoring in political science, from Gaylord, Mich., said the Ombudsman office frequently handles problems in sports. "This year has been an exception. We have received complaints steadily throughout the year."

"This year has had a marked increase in student complaints. The blame may lie in the weakened economy," she said. The increase may also be a sign of a weakening job market locally.

"Students most often hit are newly marrieds and international students. Newly marrieds have recently made some big life changes, and may not know what they're doing when they get ripped-off," Sirken said. International students may fall prey to rip-offs because, "they don't understand the law — making them an easy target."

A new trend in the complaints this year has been toward health spas. "Many students are told they will receive a lot of services and sign a contract — only to find out later that they must pay a monthly fee in addition to a separate fee for services such as aerobic classes," Sirken said. "Students need to read the contracts carefully to see what they really are getting for their money."

Other common problems are with insurance companies, scholarship services that sell the service of finding scholarships to the consumer and door-to-door salesmen, Sirken said. "There is also mail fraud and newspaper ads that advertise that if you send in \$5 you will make a million."

Some of their deception is due to the trusting nature of the people in this area, Sirken said. "BYU students can be ripped-off in any environment. The bulk of calls to our office come from students off campus, but the bulk of consumer problems (from services offered and paid for but not delivered) come from on campus."

John S. Peart, a 23-year-old senior in communication studies from Hacienda Heights, Calif., said, "My roommates and I signed what we

thought were BYU approved housing contracts. Our landlord was supposedly buying our condo and wanted \$500 from each of us for rent and a deposit. The landlord never provided us with beds or desks and when his loan fell through, he took the microwave, vacuum, tables and couches — and left. Later we found that our contracts weren't valid. Now he has our money and we have no where to go. Our contracts aren't valid and the condo is up for sale."

Students should check housing contracts, purchases and services very carefully. Students bilked by mail or itinerant salespeople may never have the chance to get their money back.

"There are certain times of the year that students need to be more careful about purchases. Whenever the students move in or out or are making a lot of purchases there are more opportunities to be taken advantage of," Sirken said.

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**Testing center advises no procrastinating**By JENNIFER REX  
University Staff Writer

Finals are here once again and many students will be needing to take exams at the testing center during finals week.

The center will be open during finals week, Dec. 16-20, for students to take their various exams. It will open at 7:15 a.m. and close at 10 p.m. each day. However, the last exams will be given out no later than 9:30 p.m.

Lewis J. Wood, manager of the testing center, suggests the best time for students to take their exams is between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Mornings are less busy than afternoon and evening times, Wood said. "The later it gets, the worse it gets."

Nanette Buss, a 22-year-old senior and nursing major from Greeley, Colo., said from her past experiences she is going to take her tests early in the day and on one of the first days of the testing period to avoid the finals rush.

"I hate standing in line after I have already studied, with the anxiety of waiting to take a test when I'm ready to take it."

Wood said students should allow themselves enough time to complete their exams, including time to wait in long lines.

**Weddings are big events and also huge expense**By GEOFFREY M. THATCHER  
Senior Reporter, and  
KATHRYN WALLACE  
University Staff Writer

The Christmas season is a time of gift giving, caroling and weddings. It's no secret that weddings can cost a pretty penny, but except for the few

students who pay for their own weddings, parents can expect to pay anywhere in the neighborhood of \$1,000 to \$15,000 for their child's nuptial festivities.

Celia Greenan, a 21-year-old junior from Danville, Calif., is planning for a December wedding. The public relations major said her parents are spending about \$5,000 on the wedding and that doesn't include the reception at the groom's house, wedding breakfast and honeymoon.

Greenan said all the preparations — flowers, invitations, food, dresses, cake and parties — should be worth the expense. "It better be," she said.

One student said when she gets married the wedding will cost between \$10,000 and \$12,000.

However, weddings costing several thousand dollars are not common for all BYU students.

Diane Arters, a 23-year-old junior majoring in English from Hailey, Idaho, said she and her husband had to take care of the wedding expenses themselves.

"We went as cheap as we could," Arters said. She said she got a wedding cake for a dollar a slice. "I found my gown on a sales rack at ZCMI for \$65."

She said the reception was at a tennis club her brother managed. A friend took their pictures and Arters said they got a great deal on the rings.

For their honeymoon they went camping in Yellowstone and stayed in their parents' friend's guest home for one night. She said the honeymoon was only about \$250.

But even after getting good deals

on the cake, dress and pictures, Arters said costs like \$75 on stamps and \$150 for invitations put the total cost of the wedding at about \$1,500.

After calling around to the various jewelry stores, floral shops and other wedding stores, The Daily Universe came up with the following estimates:

The first cost is usually an investment into rings. Gold bands run from \$100 to \$400. A traditional engagement ring with a half carat and a gold band will cost about \$1,500 to \$2,000. And there are more expensive settings and smaller diamonds.

Next, there is the question of where to have the wedding. Renting the cultural hall of the local LDS chapel is the cheapest route, but receptions usually are the most expensive chapter in the wedding scrapbook.

Local hotel ballrooms and halls are about \$700 to \$1,000 by the day. This figure usually includes catering, flowers, place settings, pictures, dresses, tuxes, music or entertainment can add thousands more.

Wedding gown rental shops are becoming more popular. Wedding, bridesmaid and mother of the bride dresses can be rented for about \$35 to \$300 compared to the average cost of about \$400 to buy a wedding gown.

Couples say the average cost of a wedding is about \$5,000 and some now wish they could have the thousands to pay rent and other expenses.

Tammy and Brian were married in July and wish they had the money spent on their wedding now.

"My family probably spent \$20,000 on the reception, and Brian and I are really struggling now," Tammy said.

She said it seems stupid now that all the money was spent for a one day event that will fade from memory.

Most couples agree that unexpected costs come up but say the cost is usually worth it.

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**The High Cost of Weddings**

Local hotel ballrooms and halls are about \$700 to \$1,000 by the day. This figure usually includes catering, flowers, place settings, pictures, dresses, tuxes, music or entertainment can add thousands more.

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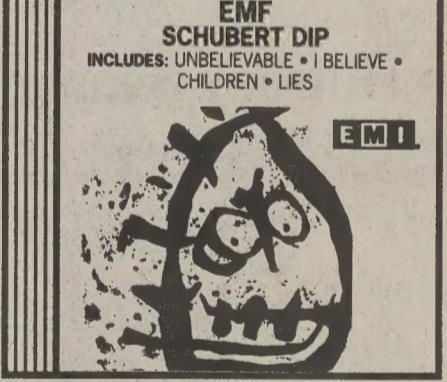
Most couples agree that unexpected costs come up but say the cost is usually worth it.

**Hot Hits For Christmas**

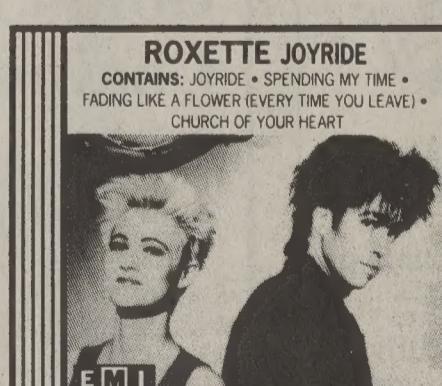
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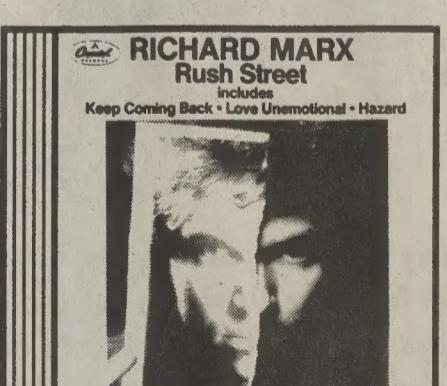
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## Law school students already taking finals

By LANCE D. MADIGAN  
University Staff Writer

While students move into the final testing period, anxiety over tests begins to rise. But for law school students, final tests have already been going on awhile now.

"We started exams on Monday, December ninth, and will go through the 20th," said Carolyn Stewart, administrative assistant for the J. Ruben Clark Law School. "We have a two-week exam period. Exams themselves don't necessarily last longer, but it takes us longer to get through them."

Stewart explained that with the fewer numbers of instructors and fewer total number of classes offered, it makes it harder for tests to be scheduled. "We just have that many exams and can only offer one exam at a time. In the few instances that there are two classes taught at the same time, we can offer both of those exams a day."

Students recognize this fact as well. David Mortensen, a second-year law student, said, "Considering the fact that our entire grade rests on one final, and there are no other assignments the entire semester, we need the time."

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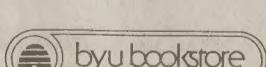
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Universe photo by Roger Ellis  
Elders Tyler Miner, left, Terry Wallentine, wearing trenchcoat, and Joseph Renwick get a dose of the holiday spirit in the MTC.

## Christmas for missionaries in MTC a spiritual experience

By CHERI PADFIELD  
University Staff Writer

watching the First Presidency Christmas message and eating a Christmas lunch.

"A fun tradition at the MTC is when the missionaries can put their goodies out on a share table where they can pick and choose," Carter said the missionaries then visit, share their goodies and eat a sack-dinner.

The final activity of Christmas Day will be an address by Elder Richard G. Scott. Carter said the activities and the addresses by the members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles make Christmas a spiritual experience for the missionaries. "It's spiritually power-packed for them."

Sandford Porter, 25, who was in the MTC for Christmas of 1985, said he would rather have been with his family, but Christmas in the MTC wasn't too bad. "It was almost like an adventure to be out on my own and it was my first Christmas away from home."

Porter said Christmas in the MTC was better than the Christmas he spent in Korea because in Korea they didn't really celebrate Christmas. Carter said missionaries usually enter the MTC on Wednesday, but he said no missionaries will enter the MTC during the week of Christmas.

## Finding the perfect tree is centuries-old tradition

By RYAN WHITNEY  
University Sports Writer

The annual hunt for the perfect cone-shaped fir is once again under way for millions of families all over the world.

For some individuals the selection of the right tree becomes a quest, said Clark Griswold, a devoted family man. For instance, some devoted tree-hunters pass over the local tree lots and head for the high-country in search for "THE TREE" that can stand as the symbol of family pride and Christmas spirit.

However, over recent years, this long-standing Christmas tradition has been dwindling in popularity. According to a recent survey conducted by Penn State University, one-third of all families in the United States have artificial trees.

If you take a step back and look at the ritual of erecting a dead tree in your living room, you might call it ludicrous. However, when one begins to understand the origin of this ritual and the symbol of Christianity it represents, the whole concept of the Christmas tree takes on a different meaning.

Many believe the first Christmas tree to be dated back to the early 16th century in Estonia, which is now one of the Baltic states. However, accounts of the Christmas tree have been found as early as the fourth century in and around the country of Turkey.

On Dec. 25, members of the cult of Mithras, a mystery religion that worshipped a god who dies and is resurrected, would go up into the hills and cut down a pine tree. The pine tree was chosen because it represents

the winter solstice is Dec. 22.

Being the shortest day of the year, the Mithrian people believed that it also represented the death of the world as well as the death of their god Mithras. They believed he was resurrected three days later, on the 25th.

The reason why the Mithrians performed this event on Dec. 25 is because the winter solstice is Dec. 22.

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# LIFESTYLE

## Program helps 'forgotten' patients

Sponsors sought to buy gifts for people at state hospital

JULIE HOUGAARD  
Universe Staff Writer

Christmas can be a time for families reunite and celebrate together, but for many patients at the Utah State Mental Hospital it's a time of loneliness and being forgotten.

"The 'Forgotten Patient Program' means a lot to our patients, they feel no one remembers them," said Jan Chilton, director of public relations at the hospital.

Chilton said volunteers are needed to take a patient's name and provide a wrapped Christmas gift (or gifts) for

them.

Volunteers are given the patient's size and a list from the patient of a few possible gifts.

"The packages donated will be placed under a Christmas tree, and the patients will open them together as a 'family' on Christmas morning," Chilton said.

"They don't get much during the year, so new things are really needed," she said.

Christie Giles, director of United Way Volunteer Center, said presents can be purchased for young children or up to senior citizens.

"There are 75 patients that have not received a sponsor," Giles said. "There is a great need for this type of assistance," she said.

Chilton said needs include grooming items, candy, new underclothing — especially for men, new socks, toiletry items and toys for children. Nothing with razor blades or aerosol should be given.

Giles said some patients like to do different activities, and presents can be purchased accordingly.

Gifts can be given up until Christ-

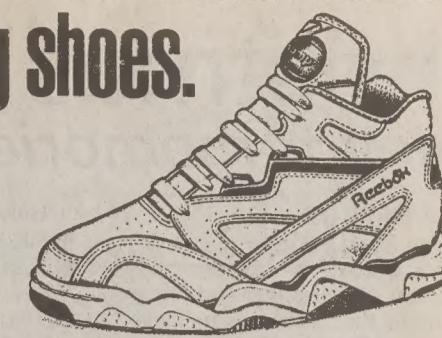
mas Eve.

To get patient information and arrange to give a gift, call Janina at 344-4202 or 344-4254.

For people who would rather not shop, dollar donations are also accepted.

"It's a fun project that has been going for at least 30 years and many people have enjoyed participating," Chilton said.

## Driving shoes.



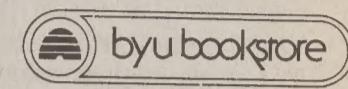
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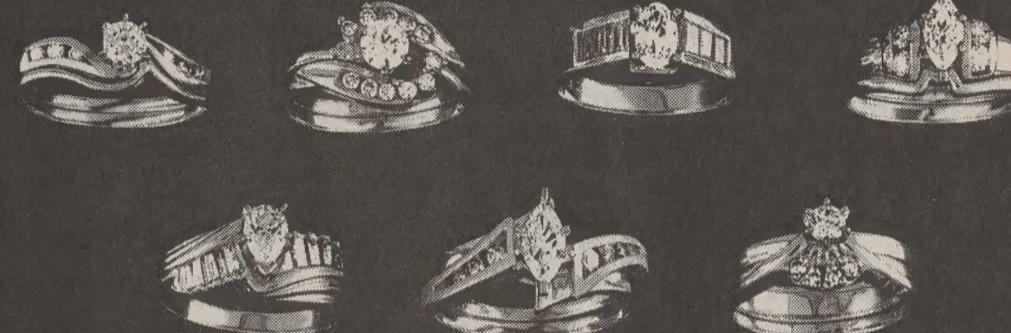
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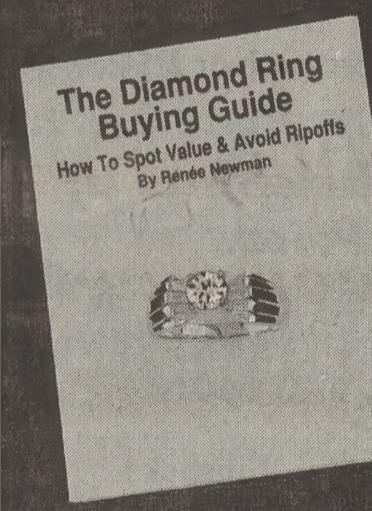


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ONE PET DOLLAR

ONE PET

# Christmas inspiration to musician

## Yuletide memories of childhood become part of music

By ANN BARRUS  
University Staff Writer

Memories of Christmas are felt in each note of the Christmas melodies that fill the air around Christmastime and linger with us all year round. Kurt Bestor and a 40-piece orchestra will perform some of the most memorable melodies written and inspired by Christmas in the debut of Kurt Bestor's "An Airbus Christmas II" tonight and Saturday at Symphony Hall.

"An Airbus Christmas II" contains traditional Yuletide favorites, such as "Joy to the World," "Little Drummer Boy," "I Wonder As I Wander" and

"Oh Holy Night." Each song has a personal memory and story behind it, Bestor said.

"Music is just a reflection of life. It is nothing by itself," Bestor said. As he reflects Christmas memories in his music, it does not take him long to actually sit down

and write the music for a Christmas album. It does take him a while to get the inspiration for the music, Bestor said.

Bestor said he usually thinks of

memories of Christmas in the past and neat times he has had with his family to get an idea for a song. "Once I have those it is pretty easy to write

better than another. It is just what your personal preference is," Bestor said.

Bestor said he is open to all types of music.

"I do not care for some music, but it does not make it bad music."

Bestor said a lot of his time is spent in non-musical

ways, such as wandering around the mountains, driving around and skiing. He goes out and listens to the music of life and then comes home and writes it down. "It is a language I speak," Bestor said.

Anybody can learn the mechanics of music. Speaking the language is a different matter, he said.

"Whenever I think of emotions, I can convey them on paper. When I think of an emotion, I can play it. Sometimes I can say things in music I cannot say in words," Bestor said.

"I think I am a better musician because I do not just do music," Bestor said. He swims, skis and feels he leads a well-rounded life.

"I write music about how I feel about God. That is a very important part of my musical experience, to worship God," Bestor said.

Bestor said he has been composing since he was a kid. "I would always take what my piano teacher gave me and change it around."

Bestor said he wrote his first song on paper in eighth grade for a girl. It was not the most mechanically correct, but he did write it all down and gave it to her. "Women have definitely been the source for a composer's inspiration for many years."

Bestor said he remembers going to a movie as a junior in high school and hearing the music. He said he realized somebody was able to have a good time writing music for a film and making money at the same time. He decided that was what he wanted to do.

"That has been my goal ever since then to write music for film and television," Bestor said.

All along the way he went through different types of music to make a living. He wrote jingles for awhile, he wrote for beauty pageants and many other types of music, Bestor said.

"I think every sort of music has merit as long as it is written for the right reasons and sincerely. I do not look down on any sort of music. I do not think any one type of music that is

wonderful because music is meant to do that," Bestor said.

"I want everybody when they come to my concert to feel like they are sitting in my front room," Bestor said. He wants his albums to be classy and emotional.

"It is not just classical, it is not just jazz, it is not just folk, it is a nice synthesis of a lot of different kinds of music. That is kind of my style."

In the future he wants to continue doing what he is doing, but he wants to do it better or "do it Bestor," he said.

Bestor wants to offer an alternative to people. "I want to write music that moves people, that uplifts people and makes a difference in their lives. I want music that makes people cry, makes people smile, makes people feel wonderful because music is meant to do that," Bestor said.

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# Play 'Promised Valley' now a novel

JULIE HOUGAARD  
University Staff Writer

The musical, "Promised Valley," written by Arnold Sundgaard and Crawford Gates, has been expanded into a historical fictional novel in an attempt to reacquaint or introduce a story to people of all ages.

The authors of the novel adaption, Diane Williams and Tillman (Tip) S. Sowell, are both BYU alumni.

Williams has a bachelor's degree in motion picture and acting and Boxell has a degree in history and a master's degree in motion picture directing.

"Tip and I are both film makers and actors. Originally we thought of this adaption as a movie, but as we developed it, we realized it would be better to create the novel before the movie," Williams said.

"This is the first novel for both of us. It took us two years to complete," said Williams.

Williams said the musical was originally created for the 1947 centennial celebration of the Mormon Pioneers moving to Utah. Sundgaard, who was a non-LDS Broadway playwright,

and Gates, who was 25 at the time, and directing the live KSL studio orchestra, locked themselves into a room in Hotel Utah and put the musical together. Sundgaard wrote the story, as Gates developed what would become the live music for "Promised Valley."

Word leaked out about a musical that was expected to be the best ever, and by the time they were ready to stage the play, it was sold out. It was to run for one week, but because of demand and popularity, it ran for two.

Harvey Fletcher, an inventor, approached them in the summer of 1947, to see if they wanted to use something not very well known at that time — stereo. They decided to try it, and Mormon talent became famous.

"One big misconception is that the Church commissioned this play to begin with, but it was actually the State of Utah. Eventually the Church continued the play and it became an ongoing thing," Williams said.

"Promised Valley" was performed nightly in an open-air theater called "Temple View Theatre," during the months of June through August, from 1952 to 1971. The theater was positioned east of the Temple, where there is now a fountain. During the play, the Temple was in the background with no lights on, until after the miracle of the gulls when it was dramatically lit.

In 1971 the LDS Church did away with the open-air theater on Temple Square and purchased the "Lyric Theatre," where the play ran until 1983, and where the play runs currently, "Promised Valley Playhouse."

"It has played all over the United States and more than five million people have seen it. The play has been translated into six languages," Williams said.

"The National Tourist Board determined that between 1971 and 1983, 'Promised Valley' was the fifth most visited tourist attraction in the United States," he said.

Williams said someone coined the phrase, "This is the Mormon 'Gone with the Wind.'"

Concerning the novel, Duane Hatt, BYU's director of editorial and media production for continuing education, said, "I really like it. The book isn't a deep and heavy dissertation of

Mormon history and doctrine, but for people who want to get a feel for the pioneer's experiences, it's really good.

"Though the characters are fictional, it captures people's personal feelings and struggles in giving up everything to help build the Kingdom of God. I like seeing the heroic acts of pioneers and personal heroism of each individual."

Williams said the story is very dramatic, with more action, adventure and romance than the play. Historical characters such as Brigham Young and Porter Rockwell are in it as well.

"It's a huge epic story of events and things that really happened," he said.

The authors were careful not to cut out any of the play. Even the songs flow through the novel, sometimes in thoughts or poetry. "We have built on the play and introduced a new character. People who saw the play and read the book, said they can't imagine the story without him," Williams said.

"It is my hope that not only will the three generations who grew up with 'Promised Valley' rediscover it, but that many new generations will as well," Williams said.

Williams said the story is very dramatic, with more action, adventure and romance than the play. Historical characters such as Brigham Young and Porter Rockwell are in it as well.

Williams said the story is very dramatic, with more action, adventure and romance than the play. Historical characters such as Brigham Young and Porter Rockwell are in it as well.

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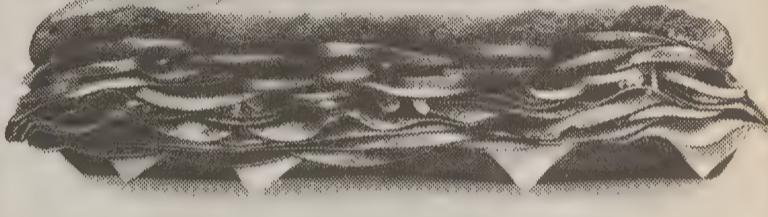
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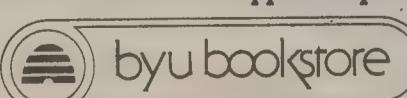
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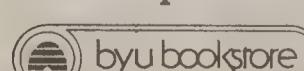


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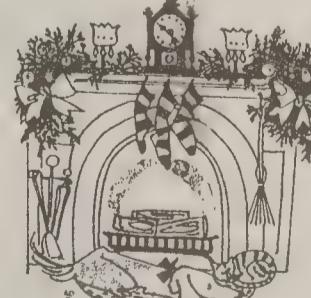


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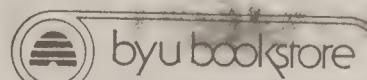


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## Symphony plans seasonal concert

By ANN BARRUS  
University Staff Writer

The Utah Symphony, conducted by Maestro Joseph Silverstein, will give its annual seasonal concerts Dec. 20 and Dec. 21 at 8 p.m. in Symphony Hall.

The symphony will perform Tchaikovsky's Suite from "The Nutcracker," Anderson's "Christmas Festival," the "Carol of the Bells," and Alder's "The Feast of Lights."

Also appearing on the program will be the Hillcrest High School Choir under the direction of Brian Bentley, on Friday night, and the West High School Choir, under the direction of Richard Torgeson, on Saturday, said Ken Rogerson, public information manager.

Rogerson said the concert will end with a traditional sing-along of Christmas favorites, the choir being featured in Handel's Hallelujah

Chorus from the "Messiah."

In addition to the choirs and the other Christmas works, the Utah Symphony Youth Guild chooses two of its members to be featured soloists, Rogerson said.

On Friday, 18-year-old Jennie Watson will perform the first movement of Chopin's "Piano Concerto No. 1."

On Saturday, 18-year-old Jenny Oaks will perform the "Conus Violin Concerto," Rogerson said.

Symphony Hall will be filled with kids Dec. 21 for Christmas music and a visit from Santa.

The Utah Symphony will perform at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. as part of the Mervyn's Youth Concert Series.

Jason Swigert will play "Winter" by Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" in one concert, and Eleha Cho will perform the first movement of Mendelssohn's "Concerto in D minor" in the other concert, Rogerson

said.

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## Warm up any way you want to

By DEBBIE D. RASMUSSEN  
University Staff Writer

With the temperature falling, go one step beyond just staying warm and get hot with what the designers say are this season's trends in winter coats.

Fashion is always in retro, said Dana Kellin, fashion editor for W in Los Angeles, Calif. This year is no different, almost every designer is using styles from the past.

This season's fashions are not coming from one particular time period, they seem to be a collage from several decades.

"To stay warm and remain fashionable this winter you can start hitting the thrift shops and your parent's old wardrobe. Everything you'll need you can probably find there," said Kellin.

"Plaid is a strong influence this season. I have seen several wool, plaid jackets that have a real woodsy look to them. I have seen them in the store for around \$100 and in a thrift store for about \$10. You just need to take the time to hunt," said Kellin.

Ann Marie Austin, fashion editor for New Woman in New York City said, "The designers are doing so many fun things with plaid this season. The colors are so bright. Along with the classic blue and red plaid are dramatic colors like fuchsia and orange."

"Wool plaid is being mixed with velvet and crepe, and Oscar de la Renta has done some fun things mixing plaid with fringe. Plaid is so dominant right now that you can find just about any material, color or style coat in plaid,"

Austin said.

The 1940s seem to be influencing every segment of the fashion industry this season, Kellin said. "There seems to be a movement towards the Hollywood glamour look of the 1940s. Faux-fur collars and cuffs on wool jackets, full-length, double-breasted wool coats are what many people are wearing to keep warm this winter."

Andrea Milner, assistant fashion editor for Vogue said, "The American designers are going for the soft, elegant look of Grace Kelly and Lauren Bacall."

"I have seen so many coats that recapture the essence of the 1940s. The look is double-breasted, close fitting and tapering at the waist to show the figure. I think it's a beautiful look," Milner said.

"Faux-furs are becoming more and more popular," Austin said. "Because of protests regarding animal's rights, designers are moving away from real furs and it is fashionable to be wearing a faux leopard or mink. I have seen some great coats from the 1940s that look almost like a tent - they cut off at the waist. The ones that I have seen are in a faux leopard or a bright wool."

"Leather is the fall stabilizer," Kellin said. "Leather can be found in full-length trench coats as well as biker jackets. Many people think of a hard black image when they think of leather, but Calvin Klein has created some beautiful winter coats with black leather and lace. He has made some designs that you could wear over an evening dress."

Milner said, "Leather is taking on a really soft look this year. We have

always seen leather with motorcycles and chains, but this year leather is being accented with pearls, silk and lace."

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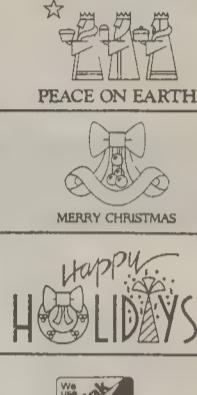


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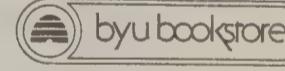
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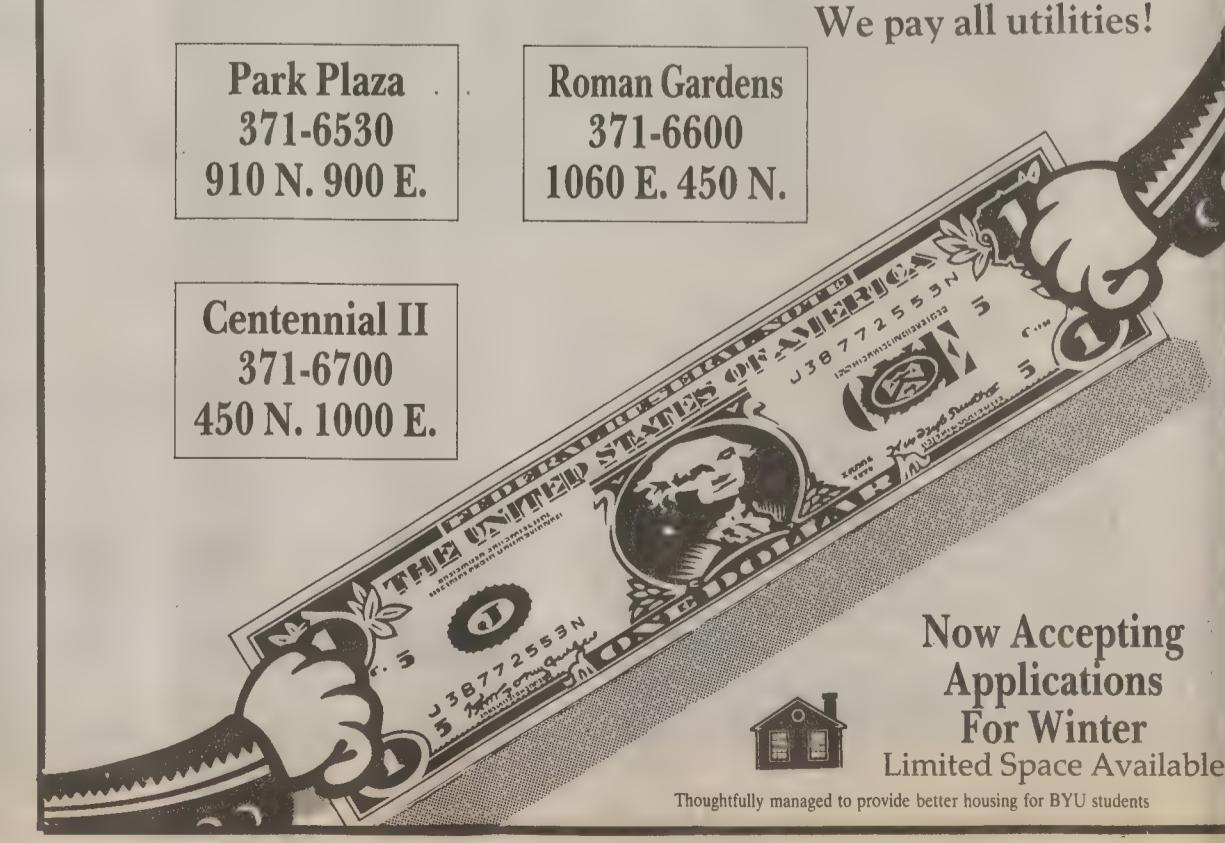
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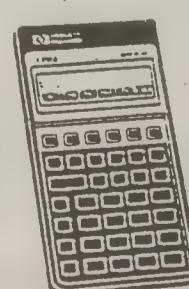
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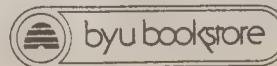
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# SPORTS

## Cougar Classic tips-off tonight

Princeton meets Oral Roberts at 5:30, BYU plays USU at 7:30

By KARL WILD  
University Sports Writer

The BYU men's basketball team begins its home season by hosting the Cougar Classic tonight and Saturday at the Marriott Center. The Cougars will meet Utah State in a 7:30 p.m. tip-off.

The opening game of the Classic will be at 5:30 when Oral Roberts, 3-4, takes on Princeton, 4-2. Saturday's game will be at 5:30 p.m. for the consolation and 7:30 for the championship.

Utah State, 2-2, upset No. 11-ranked University of Utah Tuesday night in a 74-72 overtime victory.

The Cougars, 3-0, met the Aggies in their first game of the season and BYU came away with an 82-66 win.

"Utah State is getting more mature and they have some talented players," said head BYU basketball coach

Roger Reid.

The Cougars will be led by senior point guard Nathan Call. Call is averaging 15 points a game, and he scored a career high against the University of Tulsa with 30 points.

"At Tulsa, Nathan Call had some phenomenal shooting," Reid said. "Tulsa was so quick that we had to be alert the whole game."

BYU's guard Mark Heslop will also be looked upon to be a contributing factor in the Classic. Heslop, who was 0-9 shooting from the field in the Utah State game earlier this season, redeemed himself against James Madison when he hit on eight of his 11 attempts from the field and was four of six from the three-point range.

"Mark Heslop has been down, but then he rose to the occasion at James Madison when Gary Trost happened to be off," Reid said. "At James Madison our inexperience showed early, but Heslop hit a clutch shot at

the end."

Reid said Jared Miller, who has been afflicted with a nagging knee injury, may see some playing time, depending on how he responds in practice and if there is no swelling in his knee.

This is the 18th Cougar Classic and BYU has won the title nine times, the last time being in 1989.

The last time the Cougars got off to an undefeated start when coming into the Classic was in 1987 when the Cougars were 4-0. BYU won the Classic that season and went on to a 17-0 record until it lost at Alabama-Birmingham.

Princeton has a 4-2 record after winning the Dr. Pepper Invitational last weekend, where it defeated Hofstra 54-42 and Baylor 61-54. The Tigers are led by 6-9 freshman center Rich Helscher, who leads the team in scoring with 11.5 point a game.

Princeton is coached by Pete Carr-

ril, who is entering his 25th season as one of the winningest coaches in the NCAA with a 425-221 record. Carril's team is best known for a tough defense, leading the NCAA in scoring defense nine of the last 16 years, including the last three seasons.

Oral Roberts, who brings a 3-4 record into the classic, recently won the Key Centurion Tournament, where the Titans beat host Marshall in the first round 82-62 and then beat South Florida in the championship.

After the Cougar Classic, BYU hosts McNeese State on Dec. 19 and Weber State on Dec. 21.

The Cougars remain busy during the Christmas holidays with travels to Orlando for the Red Lobster Classic beginning Dec. 28. BYU begins play against No. 18-ranked University of Michigan. The winner of this game will advance to the championship and play the winner of Florida and Virginia Tech on Dec. 30.

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## Former Cougar gridders to compete for positions on Utah Pioneers team

By DAVID L. HANCOCK  
Associate Sports Editor

With the recent organization of the Professional Spring Football League and the announcement that Utah will have a team, several former BYU football players may soon find themselves back in pads.

Chris Smith, a tight end for the Cougars from 1987 to 1990, and Eric Bergeson, a defensive back during the 1988 and 1989 seasons, lead the list of Cougars who are being considered for positions on the Utah Pioneers team, according to Pioneers General Manager Roy Henline.

"Smith will be on our team," said Henline. "Bergeson has already tried out and is a definite possibility. We like the fact that he has a year of NFL experience."

Bergeson spent the 1990 football season with the Atlanta Falcons in the NFL then was released. He returned to BYU this semester to finish his education.

Smith was drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals in the last NFL draft but was unable to make the squad.

Henline said that there are several other former Cougars being looked at closely, among them is Neil Fort.

"Fort is the kind of player that could be a real anchor for us," Henline

said. But according to Henline, Fort's status is uncertain because of his possible commitments to the NFL.

Players will be selected in a January draft, then the teams are scheduled to begin a month-long training camp later in the month.

A unique feature of the PSFL is the dedication of the teams in the league to sign players that played their college ball in the team's area.

"Local college stars would provide a significant amount of excitement and flavor to each franchise," said Walt Michaels, director of football operations for the PSFL.

Each PSFL team will be allowed to invite 75 players to their camp, said Henline. By the first game, the teams must be down to 45 regular season players and five more to be kept on a practice squad.

The Pioneers are scheduled to play the first game of the league's first game of the season, matching up with the Tampa Bay Outlaws in Tampa Bay on Feb. 29.

Henline said at this point it looks like the Pioneers will play their first home game in the University of Utah's Rice Stadium the week after they play in Tampa Bay. Complete 16-game schedules should be finalized within the next couple of weeks, said Henline.

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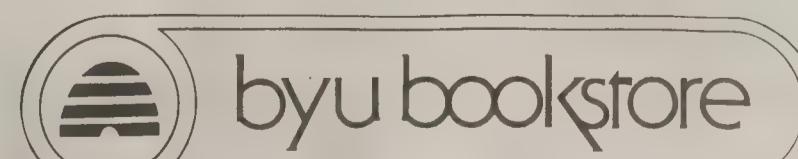
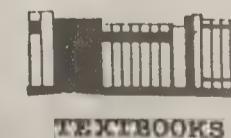
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The BYU defensive line practices one of their drills during Thursday's practice. The Cougars resumed practice, after taking off

since the U of U game, for their Dec. 30 meeting with the University of Iowa in the Thrifty Car Rental Holiday Bowl.

Universe photo by Alan Martin

## SPORTSNOTES

By JOANIE CASTLE  
Universe Sports Writer

Ty Detmer, senior quarterback on the BYU football team and last year's Heisman Trophy winner will be in New York City this weekend for the announcement of the winner of the 1991 Heisman. The announcement will take place on Saturday at 5 p.m.

Detmer won the Maxwell award last year and then came up the winner of the Heisman Trophy. Michigan's Desmond Howard is following in his footsteps. Howard has already won the Maxwell award and according to the USA Today, Howard has made this year's Heisman voting as suspenseful as an old-time Soviet election. The mystery is if Howard breaks O.J. Simpson's record margin of 1,750

votes for the Heisman. Simpson won the trophy in 1968.

Detmer's schedule of events include a formal dinner tonight, the presentation of the Heisman Trophy winner on Saturday afternoon, a press conference on Saturday following the announcement and a television special, "Heisman Memorial Trophy Award Show" airing on KUTV Channel 2 Saturday evening.

Following the events in New York City, Detmer will fly to Nashville, Tenn., to be part of the Bob Hope Christmas Special. He was also part of this show last season after being named to the Associated Press All-American team at the quarterback spot. He is again on AP All-American team, making him the first player to do so in over 40 years.



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## Rock Canyon climbers should practice safety

By GREG J. FEATHERSTONE  
Universe Sports Writer

Rock Canyon near BYU has become a popular site for climbing and hiking but it also has become a place where climbers can get into trouble situations quickly if not properly trained.

The Mountain Rescue and Aquatics Team, a division of the Provo City Police Dept., responded to ten different incidents in the past year. One incident resulted in the fatality of a 21-year-old man that was hiking with friends on the north wall of Rock Canyon. The group was not equipped and the man became separated from the group.

According to police reports, the man tried to descend an area of rock which requires climbing equipment as well as technical climbing abilities. During his descent he lost his holds and fell. A group of climbers on the south wall observed the victim fall and immediately sent for help and then went to assist the victim.

Although the MRT and Life Flight were summoned and they reached the victim while he was still alive, he later died in the hospital as a result of his injuries.

"Climbing is a great sport, but it can get dangerous for even the most experienced climber," said Sara Stout, 21, a junior majoring in microbiology from Upper Saddle River, N.J. "Before people start climbing they really need to be properly trained in safety and climbing."

The Rock Garden, an indoor rock climbing gym, held a safety awareness event last Saturday in connection with the Provo City Police Department to educate climbers in proper climbing procedures and precautions.

"We wanted to promote safety and teach climbing in a controlled environment," said Bethany Haddock, a public relations representative for the Rock Garden.

The event featured climbing demonstrations by a member of the Mountain Search and Rescue team of the Provo City Police, and other professional climbers. "Rock climbing is becoming more and more popular in the area, and we wanted to set up the gym to give people a place to learn and practice before taking on the dangers of Rock Canyon," said Scott Burnham, owner of the Rock Garden.

The MRT demonstrated proper climbing precautions and explained difficulties that may arise while climbing. Climbers were taken through various scenarios and questions on how they might respond to.

"I learned a lot about climbing," said Mike Sharp, 22, a senior in economics from Salt Lake City. "I really never thought that there was that much to know about safety in climbing before they (MRT) put me on the spot with questions."

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# Women hoopsters open home season tonight against in-state foe Weber State

By CELESTE J. FITZHUGH  
University Sports Writer

After seven straight road games, the BYU women's basketball team will finally play at home this weekend, hosting Weber State University and a team from Portland.

Off to its best start since 1986-87's 1-1 opening, the Cougars started the season with a 3-0 start. But, going

into tonight's game against Weber State the Cougars are 4-3 and ready to play on their home turf. Road weariness caught up with the Cougars and they have lost three of their last four games.

"We can't wait to be home and play in front of a home crowd," BYU head coach Jeanie Wilson said.

Senior forward Lisa Rathbun leads BYU in scoring, averaging 16.0

points per game while freshman center Debbie Dimond is second with 15.2 points per game. Dimond leads the Cougars in rebounds with 8.8 per game.

The hottest player in the BYU lineup is freshman guard Thais Kidd. Kidd has come off the bench to lead the BYU squad in scoring for the last three games.

Also coming off the bench, junior guard Nikki Eyre has been averaging 12.0 points per game, but has sat out the last three games with a knee injury.

Eyre could return to the lineup and play tonight and Saturday for the Cougars. Tonika Young, a junior college transfer, leads BYU in assists with 7.0 per game.

"We have lots of depth and that's a good thing, because by the time we finish on Saturday we'll have played five games in eight days, so we expect to use a lot of players both nights," Wilson said.

As a team, the Cougars are averaging 78.2 points per game on .455 shooting and holding opponents to 71.8 points and .399 percent shooting.

Friday night BYU takes on the Weber State Wildcats who are 2-2 against Western Athletic Conference teams.

The University of Utah and the University of Wyoming have defeated Weber State while the University of Texas El Paso and Colorado State University have dropped decisions to the Wildcats. Weber State's overall record is 2-3 with another loss to the University of Kansas.

Leading the Wildcats in scoring are Cindy Holcomb with 16.0 points per

game, Becky Conrad with 12.6 points, and Jill Sperry adding 12.4 points per game. Holcomb also leads Weber State in rebounds, pulling down 9.8 per game, while Jenny Pokorney leads the Wildcats in assists, dishing out 3.4 per game.

As a team, Weber State is scoring 60.8 points per game on .388 shooting, while opponents are scoring 69.6 points and hitting .385 percent.

Saturday night BYU faces Portland with an overall mark of 2-3. Portland is led by Martha Sheldon, who is averaging 23.6 points per game, and Monica Kessi's 7.4 rebounds per game. Tina Geis is second in scoring with 9.0 points per game while Kathy Adleman leads in assists with 5.2 per game.

Portland is averaging 67.4 points per game on .388 shooting.

Both games begin at 5 p.m. in the Smith Fieldhouse. Admission is \$3.00 for the general public, \$2.00 for students and \$7.00 for a family pass. Children under six are admitted free.

BYU will return home next week to host Montana on December 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Fieldhouse.

The Cougars will also play over the holiday break when they host the BYU Holiday Classic, in the Marriott Center, on Saturday December 28, with games at 6 and 8 p.m. and Monday afternoon December 30 with game times starting at 1 and 3 p.m. The University of Indiana, Kansas State and Pennsylvania will be the teams in the BYU Holiday Classic.

The BYU women's basketball team will start its WAC season on Jan. 16 against the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

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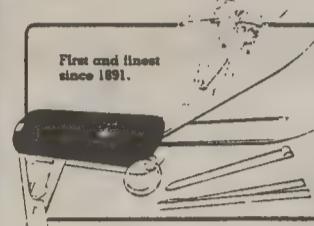
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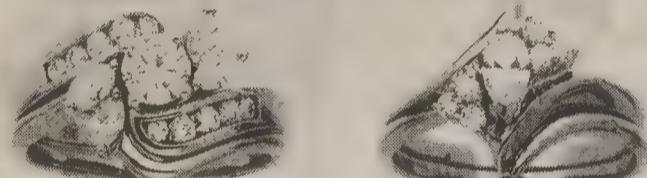
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New Jersey	6	14	.300
Washington	6	15	.286

CENTRAL DIVISION	W	L	Pct.
Chicago	16	3	.842
Cleveland	12	7	.632
Atlanta	11	10	.524
Milwaukee	10	12	.455
Detroit	9	13	.409
Indiana	9	13	.409
Charlotte	6	16	.273

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

MIDWEST DIVISION	W	L	Pct.
Utah	14	8	.636
Houston	11	8	.579
San Antonio	11	8	.579
Denver	9	11	.450
Dallas	9	12	.429
Minnesota	3	14	.176

PACIFIC DIVISION	W	L	Pct.
LA Lakers	14	7	.667
Golden State	12	7	.632
Portland	13	8	.619
Phoenix	13	9	.591
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# Walk-ons contribute to Cougar team

## They work as hard as scholarship players, but without glory

By SHELLENE COCKRELL  
Universe Sports Writer

As the 1991 football season is coming to a close and the team is preparing for their appearance in the Thrifty Car Rental Holiday Bowl, there are a few players who should not go unrecognized for their hard work and dedication — the walk-ons.

Being a walk-on means that the player puts in the same amount of time, the same amount of effort and the same amount of sweat as a player who was recruited and is on scholarship, but there are no material rewards given to a walk-on.

Scholarship players receive full tuition and book coverage, plus a monthly allowance for living expenses, along with training table — which is offered to the athletes during the season as well as during the scheduled spring practices.

Walk-on players do not receive any of these benefits. So why do they continue to play?

According to the walk-ons which are a part of the team this year, it's an inner-drive and the love of the game which keeps them going.

Wide receiver Otis Sterling, who is a third-year walk-on, said, "More or less, I just haven't been satisfied with myself as far as just believing that I could be as good as anyone else out there."

"This year I got most of my time, I made some catches in a game, but I felt like I had been doing that all along — I'd just been doing it in practice."

"So, I saw myself doing the same things that the other guys were doing. The only difference was they were doing it in a game and getting the opportunity to play in a game whereas I was just practicing. Obviously that probably has a lot to do with the fact that they were on scholarship and I wasn't."

"I've also kept playing because I've been trying to earn a scholarship," Sterling added.

Scholarships are probably the biggest incentive for athletes to compete on the collegiate level. The coaches realize this and feel that walk-ons who stick with the program should be looked up to.

Coach Norm Chow said, "You admire them. Basically, people play college football for the money. They're getting a free education. These guys don't have it. The scholarship players get to go eat dinner after practice and these guys have to go home. So you really admire what they do. They're out there because they enjoy being out there."

Sterling said, "We don't get anything, not one thing. What they do is they give us a pair of sweats and a T-shirt and then they say you get to wear that Y on your helmet and that's your payment — and you should be happy to do that. And I am grateful for it — honestly."

Defensive back Kap Sikahema, also a third year walk-on player, said, "I never want to quit — regardless of my financial problems. Financial, academic or whatever problems I have, I just don't want to quit. I can last through it."

Sikahema will be graduating next week and will be starting in the Master of Public Administration program in January. With one year of eligibility left, Sikahema still plans on playing for the Cougars next year.

"I have my other goals other than football, but I like playing football because it's fun and it keeps me going."

Sikahema said he is willing to play again "because of the people and the friends and the other players — that's probably it — and opportunity to play Notre Dame and Penn State again. It's a once in a lifetime thing."

Sikahema is not alone. Sterling will be graduating in April with plans to attend the J. Rueban Clark Law School next year as well as continue playing football through his final year of eligibility.

For linebacker Barrett Awai, walking on to play for BYU after a junior college career was a way to fulfill a life-long dream.

"I knew I'd have to walk-on, but the main reason is because I wanted to go play against Hawaii. I figured this would be the best place to come be-

cause of our record against Hawaii in recent years. I want to go home and play against Hawaii and go back to Aloha Stadium one more time before my football career ends."

"The best way to do that was to come to BYU so that's why I walked on here."

For senior defensive back John Christensen, his years as a walk-on were worth it because of the friends. "The school — I wanted to graduate from BYU. Football was secondary. I made a lot of good friends and had fun out there. And, I guess, if you love something enough you enjoy it no matter what."

"Being a part of the team and going on trips and traveling has paid off," Christensen said.

Sometimes it does pay off — in a big way — even for walk-ons.

Sterling said, "One of the things that attracted me to BYU as a walk-on was the fact that there had been several walk-on players that I know of that have made a name for themselves when they've come here. Like Chuck Cutler and Mark Bellini."

"I looked at those guys as being walk-ons and starting at the bottom of the ladder and working themselves up and I said, 'Hey, if they can do it I can do it too.' There is a way for walk-ons to move up that ladder."

Take, for example, senior defensive lineman Chris Conners.

Conners was a walk-on last year from Ricks College and received a scholarship for his final year of play during the 1991 season.

Since he has seen the grass on both sides of the fence, Conners related what he saw as the difference between being a walk-on and a scholarship player.

"Everything goes a lot smoother when you're on scholarship as opposed to being a walk-on. Because after you get your scholarship you absolutely know that the coaches want you to be there and to play for them."

"It gives you a sense of security and a little more self confidence in your play because they have awarded you a scholarship. I would definitely say it's a better going once you have a scholarship," Conners said.

"As a walk-on, sometimes I got the feeling that you were viewed as an inconvenience as far as playing time and things like that go. They have plans for the future — speaking of the coaches — and they have in their mind players to fill individual spots," Conners said.

"When somebody walks-on and is able to play, I think that the coaches sometimes have to re-adjust and rethink their spots. Through that they decide if they're going to scholarship somebody and if they do then they're worked into the playing scheme."

Conners also recognized that "a lot of times a walk-on will put forth a lot more effort and lots of times be more talented than those players who were scholarship right off the bat out of high school."

"I think that it's important to re-evaluate the scholarship players and find out who's putting out an effort on the field and make an effort to play your best player."

"There are a lot of walk-ons that I see in practice who play their heart out and practice like crazy and put forth great effort and are still not recognized for the great players they are."

The walk-ons, as well as the coaches, agree that there should be at least some form of compensation for these players who contribute as much to the team as anyone else.

Chow said, "No question about it. They're working just as hard as the guy right next to them, yet after they clean up and after they lift weights they have to go home and fend for themselves, while the other scholarship players are wined and dined and eating all they want to eat. It's all or nothing. The NCAA ruling for Division I football, either you give a guy a full scholarship or he gets nothing. There are no in-betweens."

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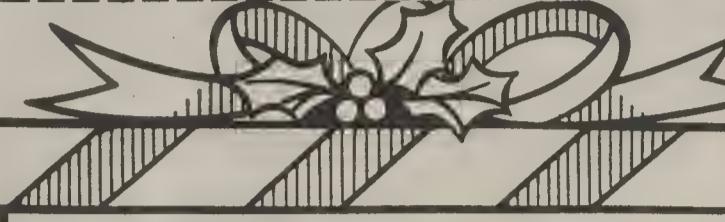
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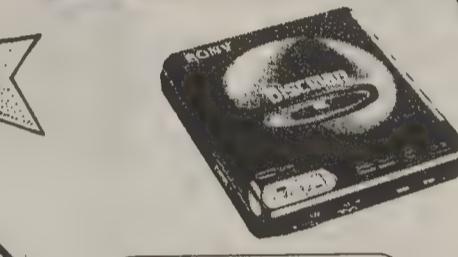
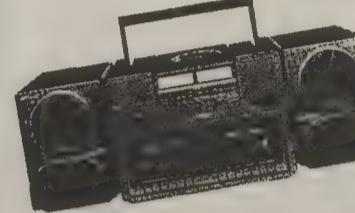
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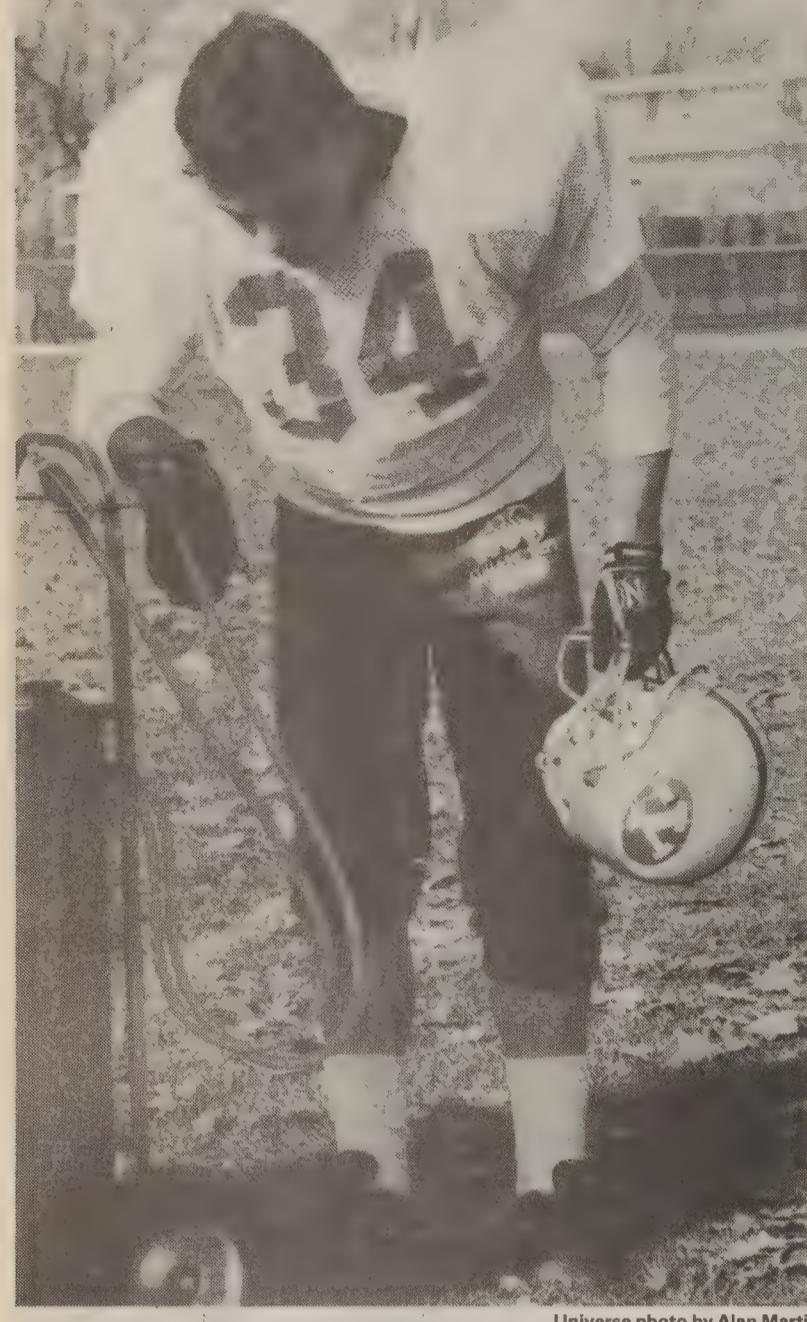
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BYU senior defensive back, John Christensen, quenches his thirst during practice. He is one of the four walk-ons that contribute to this year's football squad.

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# Reds and Kansas City make big moves during baseball's winter meetings

Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — It was nearly midnight the final day of the frenzied winter meetings at Fontainebleau Hotel when Lou Piniella ran into Kansas City Royals officials in the lobby. The Cincinnati Reds manager was sauntering back to his room. The Royals were scurrying to conclude two trades.

"Hey, what are you doing?" Piniella shouted, trying to upstage us?"

Within moments, the Royals told everyone they moved seven more players, including Bret

That's the part you hate, telling someone who means so much that he has to leave," Royals manager Hal McRae said hours later, when late

Wednesday night had turned into early Thursday morning. "But baseball is a business, and the business is to win."

The New York Mets and California haven't stood

either. They also were big reasons why 51

years, a winter meetings record, were on the

wee week. That included 14 trades, seven of

on Wednesday.

On Thursday, the Atlanta Braves re-signed free

agent Otis Nixon, guaranteeing him two years for

\$6 million and giving him the option for an additional

season at another \$2.5 million.

Nixon was leading the majors with 72 stolen

bases when he was suspended last September for

using cocaine. He missed the Braves' run to the World Series and the penalty will carry over 18 days into next season.

The Pittsburgh Pirates, which lost free agent Bobby Bonilla to the Mets, re-signed free agent Steve Buechele. The fine-fielding third baseman, who hit 22 home runs with 85 RBIs last season for the Texas Rangers and the Pirates, got a four-year deal for \$11 million.

The Toronto Blue Jays signed free-agent pitcher Eric Plunk to a minor league contract. The pitcher the Blue Jays really want is free agent Jack Morris and he's supposed to visit Toronto next week.

Since the World Series ended, the Reds have added Bill Roberts, Tim Belcher, Greg Swindell, Dave Martinez, Scott Ruskin and Bob Geren and do not have Eric Davis, Randy Myers, Jack Armstrong, Mariano Duncan and Scott Scudder. They also got John Wetteman and traded him away two weeks later.

The Royals added Wally Joyner, Kevin McReynolds, Gregg Jefferies, Chris Gwynn, Keith Miller and Bob Melvin, and lost Saberhagen, Todd Benzinger, Storm Davis and Bill Reeota. Almost certainly, free agent Danny Tartabull also will be lost.

"When you've finished sixth for two straight years, you do things and take certain risks that you ordinarily might not do," Royals general manager Herb Robinson said, explaining why he sent away

Saberhagen.

The Mets have also gotten Eddie Murray in the offseason and have an outside shot at re-signing free agent Frank Viola. If they got him, he would join Saberhagen and Dwight Gooden as the first-ever rotation with three Cy Young winners.

"All I want to know is, who's going to finish second," Baltimore executive Frank Robinson laughed, looking ahead to the NL East race. "That's all I want to know."

Joyner left and Angels general manager Whitey Herzog gambled this week by getting Von Hayes and Hubie Brooks.

"We couldn't afford to do nothing. We finished in last place," Herzog said. "You have to have a plan and follow. You have to be a little smarter than everyone else, or at least think you are."

Buechele thought he might wind up with the New York Yankees. At a meeting where several teams put names into a hat and shook it up, and the Yankees stood absolutely still.

The Yankees were the first team to contract Buechele after other clubs were allowed to begin bidding. And after Pittsburgh did not offer agent Alan Meersand the four-year, \$13 million deal he was seeking, the Yankees seemed to rank No. 1.

The Yankees tried to fill a long-time need by using eight players at third base last season and they combined for 38 RBIs and 37 errors. An internal management struggle stopped the Yankees from moving and a planned trip to bring Buechele to tour the New York area was canceled.

## Manley retires after positive drug test again

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Dexter Manley, once suspended for a year by the NFL for drug use, said Thursday he is retiring from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers after failing another drug test.

At an emotional news conference arranged by the team, Manley said he had "suffered a setback," in his battle against drugs.

With tears streaming down his face, he said, "I knew what was at stake. I used poor judgment. I think what's important now is my life, not the material things that football has given me, but fighting to stay alive, to lead a productive life and to take care of my family."

There was no indication what drug was involved.

Manley, accompanied by his attorney, Bob Woolf, and Bucs general manager Phil Krueger, read a short statement.

"Nobody knows better than I do how difficult it is to try day by day, week by week, to draw upon one's deepest reserves and strengths to dig in and fight this insidious disease that had plagued me and so many others," he said.

"I recently had a setback and the fact that it has happened, even if only once, shows me that I am in trouble and that I must renew my battle with this disease. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I have come here today to announce my immediate retirement from the NFL."

Asked if Manley could be reinstated at some future date, Joe Browne, the league's vice president of communications and development, said, "at this time, I cannot foresee any circumstance under which Manley will ever play again in the NFL."

Woolf said Manley has no intention of playing in the league again. His plans are to attend out-patient drug treatment and pursue a career in radio and television, the attorney said.

A Tampa station, which has employed Manley since September to do sports commentaries, said his contract states that he can no longer work for the station if he tests positive for drugs.

## Magic says he feels good, denies rumors of illness

Associated Press

that some reports about him are so bizarre that they're funny.

He recalled former teammate Michael Cooper used to buy sensationalistic newspapers and read them on the team bus.

"I'd catch myself thinking, 'Wow, an ape gave birth to a tiger,'" he said. "Now I'm on the front pages of them every day."

Several recent missed appointments, he said, were simple misunderstandings, but the tabloids have a field day whenever anything happens.

"My wife and I just laugh at those things, reports that she's sleeping in the basement in the maid's room, things like that. It's just funny," Johnson said.

He said he originally planned to work out with Riley in private, but when the press learned of the meeting, he decided to open it.

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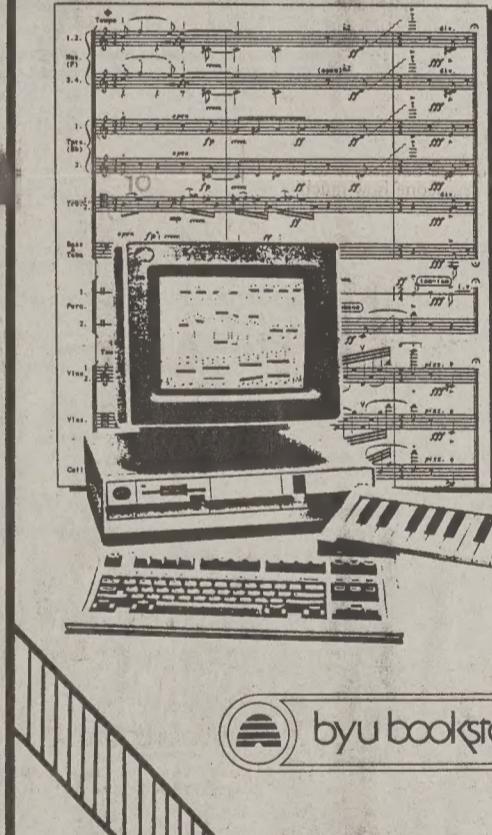
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THOMAS PETERSON

University Sports Writer

BYU's women's tennis coach Ann Valentine has announced the signing of Susana Labrador from Barcelona, Spain.

Labrador, a 5-foot-6-inch junior college transfer student, will join the ranks of the tennis team in January as a senior, majoring in marketing and international business.

While at Tyler Junior College in Texas, Labrador's

team won the 1990 national junior college championship

and was runner-up in 1991.

Labrador, who has played tennis all her life, said one of

reasons she is coming to BYU is because of the international players it has.

Labrador will join the list of four other international

students already on the tennis team, but will be the first

that has eluded the Longhorns since 1969.

Mackovic, 48, said winning a national title was an important reason for his accepting the job at Texas, which was vacated when David McWilliams was forced to resign Dec.

sociated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — John Mackovic is hired from Illinois on Thursday to coach football at Texas, and talked immediately to winning the national championship, something

he had wanted to do.

He will represent BYU with integrity, poise and a fierce fighting spirit. This kind of player comes along rarely.

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Labrador, who has played tennis all her life,



# New Mexican Christmas custom brings back pleasant memory

By ERIC RUTAR  
Monday Editor

and hardens for the winter. My mom fills up our rusting green wheelbarrow with sand from my old sandbox and then spreads it in our garage to dry.

The sand is dried because temperatures on Christmas Eve often dip below freezing, and any moisture in the sand will seep through the sack and freeze it in place.

With an ample amount of dried sand in reserve, the only thing that's left to do is wait until the day before Christmas.

Putting up the luminarias is an all-day affair. I usually wake up around 9 or 10 in the morning, and after a light breakfast, I gather enough courage to face a long day of sack folding and sand pouring.

The first task that needs to be completed is the opening of the 300 or so brown paper lunch sacks we keep as stock and re-use each year.

Technically that's cheating, but it saves us a lot of work in the end, especially since the top of each sack needs to be folded down to form a one-inch lip around the top. This makes the sack shorter, and it's done so the sack won't catch on fire as easily. (I guess I really shouldn't complain about unfolding and filling the sacks each year. Our neighbor across the street — in true gringo style — keeps 30 or 40 folded and filled luminarias in his garage year-round; all he has to do is replace the candles and light them.)

Once all the paper bags are opened, they have to be filled with enough sand so the 12-hour votive candle placed inside doesn't melt onto the sack and ruin it. Inevitably, we lose

10 or so sacks each year — especially if it's windy — to fire. Such smoke-damaged merchandise is promptly disposed of, however, and replaced — if I'm not too lazy — before I go to bed.

By mid-afternoon, I'm ready to use my old red wagon to haul several batches of 40 or 50 filled sacks to the median which divides our street, Ridgecrest Drive, into two one-way lanes. Once in the median, they are spaced in intervals of 1 or 2 feet apart until they ring the entire median.

This part of the project is the most time-consuming, because our house is "in charge" — unofficially, I suppose — of lining the median in front of the house, as well as our sidewalk and our neighbor's house, with luminarias. All told, that's about 400 luminarias, and — more importantly, to a whiner such as I — a lot of work.

By 3 or 4 in the afternoon, I'm both finished and ready to collapse; I manage to drag my fatigued body inside the house, where I attempt to take a nap before the evening's festivities.

The cold, pink-purple New Mexican twilight recharges me, however; it brings with it a heightened sense of anticipation. After a long day of folding, filling, hauling and placing, the time has come to light the luminarias. All told, it takes only about a half hour to do, but it's an electric half hour or so. That particular half hour, unlike a stats class or work, only arrives once a year. In a funny sort of way, it's almost a sacred half-hour, because not a lot of people can really know how moving the luminaria spectacle is until they see it in person.

## New Mexican Christmas not thrilling

By RUTH CLARK  
News Editor



Each year, it's basically the same thing. First, there was the waiting until 7:30 or 8 p.m. so it was dark enough for the luminarias to be lit. Then Dad had to search the house for us kids and herd us all into the car and lock all the car doors.

There's not much in way of conversation. "Oh, look at those lights, kids."

"Where, where, Dad?" He, there were only 400,000 of the bloody, burning little lights. We juveniles in the back had more fun counting the ones that had been blown out. They were only lunch bags!! And we were driving around a strange neighborhood with only our parking lights on! We're lucky we never hit anyone and got our pants sued off for the holidays.

"Ooooh, look at the pattern on that abode, children."

"Wow, Mom." In the back, we made bets about how many houses would be burned down by morning if just one of those sacks caught fire, causing a chain reaction of burning lunch bags for miles. We wondered if we could somehow help the process along.

I think the funnest Clark family tradition of looking at luminarias was when we went to Old Town to see them, and got stuck there for five hours, in minus 10 mph traffic. The parents let us get out and walk around, and I got lost for an hour and thought I'd never find the family car again amid those thousands of non-moving, bumper-to-bumper cars. If the "little lights" guided the Christ child, why couldn't they have guided me?

And now I've been in college for five years. When I go home for Christmas, instead of being herded to and then locked into the car, I have the option of deciding whether or not I want to participate in the Clark family tradition.

The first year I was determined not to go, and I didn't. But I couldn't admit that to my parents. Headache, I said. I had the house to myself for three hours, with a list of chores from Mom. Some things never change.

After reading Eric Rutar's warm and fuzzy article about Christmas in New Mexico, I just had to write a rebuttal. Christmas in New Mexico, for a child, is pure hell (Editor's Note: Heq is the New Mexican translation of heck, which is the Utah translation of hell, which is what the real world says). While Eric had the, shall we say, thrilling experience of planting luminarias and seeing them blossom at night, I was on the opposite side of the experience, in the bumper-to-bumper traffic, looking at the "little lights."

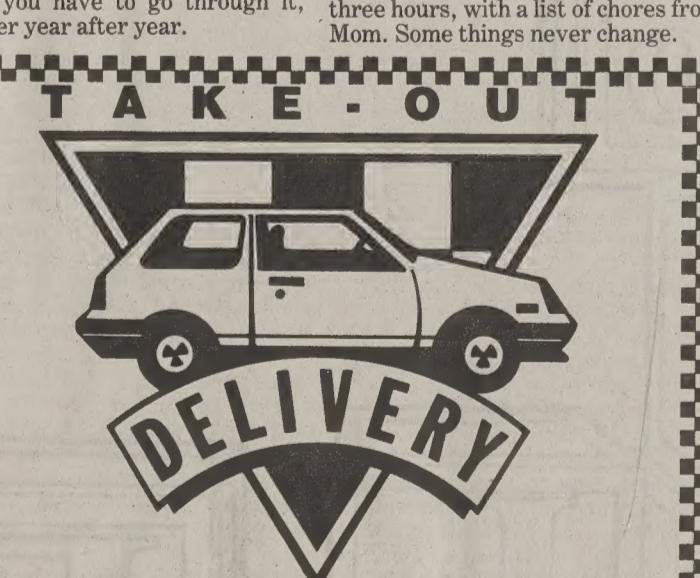
I moved to the Villa de (Village of) Corrales, which Albuquerque happens to be a suburb of, when I was 6 years old. My parents immediately adopted New Mexican traditions, such as refried beans, chili, cacti, sombreros, blue corn and, worst of all, the Clark family luminaria tradition on Christmas Eve.

Imagine you're 7 years old. It's Christmas Eve. You know you get to open one present before going to bed, and that is basically all you're living and breathing for because you're going to open the present you got from Grandma and Grandpa, which you know is your very first AM/FM General Electric radio.

But first, your parents want to bundle up in the family car with the rest of your brothers and sisters (I had four then) and go look at these lighted lunch bags/pseudo-fire hazards for two or three hours, maybe all night if you got stuck in Old Town New Mexico with all the tourists.

It might have been a relaxing experience, especially with the prospect of opening a present at the end of the long drive. But you have also spent the last four days doing slave labor for your mother because suddenly having a spotless, sparkling home for Christmas brunch is more important than the health and happiness of her own children. So you're dead tired, your mother doesn't love you as much as she loves impressing her Christmas guests, you're stuck in a car with your brothers and sisters for an indefinite amount of time during which you'll probably have to go to the bathroom and by the end of it all, your dad will probably take away your Christmas Eve gift-opening privileges for not being in the Christmas spirit and will talk about Santa Claus giving you a lump of coal.

Basically, it's child abuse. Torture. And, you have to go through it, year after year after year.



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## North and South Korea make historic peace pact

Associated Press

mutual hostilities and discuss a first formal peace to their 1950-53 war.

"It's a historic night," North Korea's premier, Yon Hyon Muk, said in a dinner toast after the two-day talks at a hotel outside Seoul.

"A new light has been thrown on our national unification," said Yon, whose country's growing international isolation as well as economic bankruptcy were seen as integral to its willingness to agree to the accord.

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